

Abstract

Proposed is a service element (2, 15, 16) in a distributed system, the service element being used to configure, equip, and maintain components of the distributed system, and, if necessary, to perform an emergency function. The service element (2, 15, 16) detects new components, and integrates them into the system, or gives information regarding the configuration. In the case of an error in the software running on components that are detected by the service element (2, 15, 16), a software correction is carried out, if necessary. Using communication means (4, 22, 24), the service element (2, 15, 16) loads new software for the components. In the case of serious functional errors, the service element (2, 15, 16) contacts a service provider, using communication means.

(Figure 1)